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The Daily Gamecock, FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 2008

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The softball team hits a hot streak and aims to keep the fires blazing against Auburn. See page 7

New York City meets the Capital City when the NYC ballet star Wendy Whelan dances today. See page 5

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The Daily Gamecock

dailygamecock.com

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 2008

VOL. 101, NO. 114 • SINCE 1908

Students walk for research

Annual event allows USC organizations to help in finding cure for cancer

Sean Gruber
STAFF WRITER

It killed 559,312 Americans in 2005.

Nearly one quarter of all American deaths in 2005, it also killed more, in one year, than the number of US soldiers who died in the Vietnam War.

It's cancer, and Brandon Martin, a third-year theater student, wants to do something about it.

"I started getting involved in middle school. My mom was the chair of the local relay events," Martin said. "I've worked in Relay for Life since I was 13. What I do goes beyond me. It's just overwhelming to think one in three people have been affected by cancer. It can be stressful, but in the end you know you've done something great."

Martin is the

president of Relay for Life at USC, an organization working with the American Cancer Society to bring the Relay for Life fundraising event to campus. The American Cancer Society also notes that one in two men and one in three women will develop cancer in their lifetime. The event's purpose is to raise money for cancer research and, ultimately, a cure for cancer.

"It's this annual thing put on by the American Cancer Society, and you walk all night with your team to represent the hardships that people with cancer go through," said Rachel Roland, the co-captain of the Women's Quad and Alpha Beta Gamma relay teams. "We have a South Carolina USC theme, so all the teams are based around events and organizations in the region. We're using the Carolina Cup. Others will create teams based on football, the band and so on."

This year's relay will feature entertainment including Guitar Hero and ping-pong tournaments, live bands, an outside movie and food. The relay will open with a speech by defensive coordinator Ellis Johnson. Cocky and the cheerleading team will also be at the event.

Students have come out in full force to support the event.

"We have 40 teams organized," Roland said.

"Individually, we have over 730 participants. We've raised



Courtesy of THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Annual Relay for Life put on by the American Cancer Society will take place at 7 p.m. today at Blatt Field and will last until 7 a.m. Saturday.

\$30,000."

According to the Columbia's InCom manager Chandra Heyward, the event hopes to gain \$60,000 in donations. Donations will be accepted during the relay.

"We started fundraising around January, and we will continue on the night of the event," Martin said. "We wanted to get most of the donations before the event so we could just party and have a good time; we didn't want to have to worry about finances during the relay."

Some teams have already neared their donations goals.

"My Women's Quad team's goal was \$500, and we ended up with

\$600," said Roland, a first-year hospitality student "My other team has raised \$2,575; we're hoping to hit \$3,000 by the end of the relay. If we get \$100 dollars donated for each team member, it would be great."

Martin does not want students to think they have to donate to enjoy the relay.

"You don't have to sign up online or donate to come," Martin said. "Come out and have a good time."

The Relay for Life will take place 7 p.m. Friday at Blatt Field. It will last until 7 a.m. Saturday.

Comments on this story?
E-mail gamecocknews@sc.edu

CITY MOURNS MLK JR. DEATH

Memphis citizens remember events that happened 40 years ago today

Woody Baird
The Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Joe Warren dropped his head to his hands, sobbing as he remembered back 40 years to the bitter garbage workers strike that drew Martin Luther King Jr. to Memphis — and to his death.

Warren, 86, was one of the 1,300 black sanitation workers who walked off the job in 1968 with a strike that tore at the foundation of the city's white-only rule.

"They talked to you like you were a dog, and they worked you like a dog," he said, his shoulders trembling. "But I couldn't find a job nowhere else."

The 65-day strike for the right to unionize ended with a victory for the workers. But King's assassination stained this Southern city for years, limiting its prosperity and hurting its reputation worldwide.

"It took a decade of growth out of the Memphis regional economy," said David Ciscel, a University of Memphis economist. "It was a time of fairly rapid growth in the South, and it was a time when Atlanta and Nashville kind of left us behind ... People just didn't want to associate with us."

The city's fortunes eventually improved, thanks largely to a young cargo airline named Federal Express that in the early 1980s showed that Memphis could still be a good place to do business. The airline grew into today's FedEx Corp.

"It rescued Memphis," Ciscel said.

The sanitation strike and King's assassination made clear to blacks and whites alike that "the old plantation mentality had to be dumped," said Michael Honey, author of "Going Down Jericho Road," a history of the Memphis strike and King's struggle for economic justice for the poor.

In the 1960s, close to 60 percent of black families in Memphis lived in poverty, Honey said, and few jobs other than manual labor were open to blacks.

Today the city has a poverty rate of nearly 24 percent overall, almost twice the national figure, and 30 percent among black residents.

But the good jobs, in government and the private sector, are no longer reserved for whites. Memphis, which was 40 percent black in the 1960s, is now more than 60 percent black. It has had a black mayor since 1991.

The strike began in February 1968 after two sanitation workers were crushed by a trash compactor when they climbed in a garbage truck to get out of the rain.

The accident was blamed on faulty equipment, but it inflamed tensions that had festered for years over low wages and poor working conditions.



Ben Fine / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Students gathered at the State House for the Darfur rally.

Moore school to walk for Darfur

Student team will help raise awareness, money for Sudan conflict

Kara Apel
STAFF WRITER

Fifteen USC students will participate in the 5k Walk for Darfur on Saturday.

The Moore School of Business Undergraduate Advising Office formed a team for USC students to participate in the 2.5-mile walk.

Marcia Deal, administrative assistant in the Moore School of Business undergraduate

division, helped to organize the team because she thought it would be a good experience for students to have.

"We view this as an opportunity to raise awareness about global issues," Deal said.

Walk for Darfur has approximately 70 participants pre-registered so far, said Annie Niehaus, one of the organizers.

The walk is sponsored and organized by Spring Valley High School's International Club. Niehaus said the club picks an issue to focus on at

DARFUR • 3

Men, women compete for bodybuilding recognition

Students prepare for Mr. and Miss USC Championships

Katie Jones
STAFF WRITER

The Bodybuilding and Fitness Club, the second-oldest sports club at USC, will hold its 29th annual Mr. and Miss USC Championships in the Blatt PE Center on Saturday at 7 p.m.

The championships will feature 14 men and eight women. Mr. USC is a bodybuilding competition, while Miss USC is a figure competition.

Vice President of Membership Eric Brei, a third-year English student, is competing in Mr. USC for the third time.

"I'm persevering and trying to do what I can," he said. "During the off season, the guys try to build as much muscle mass as possible." Brei recommends "a peppy partner" for the days when one would rather take a nap than work out.

Justin Burcham, a public health and physical activity graduate student, is the Bodybuilding and Fitness Club's president and competing for the first time in bodybuilding.

"It's a challenge that I haven't taken on before. It's certainly opened my eyes," he said. "It was more a challenge than I thought it would be. It's interesting to see your body change over the last couple months."

Harrison Greenlaw, director of orientation and testing, is the adviser

for the Bodybuilding and Fitness Club for the past 22 years.

"People misinterpret the word bodybuilding," he said. "Bodybuilding really means you care about the way you look and feel. There is the competitive side of bodybuilding, where you get up on stage and pose and that's what this event is about."

Greenlaw said the Bodybuilding and Fitness Club usually maintains a 3.4 grade point average, calling the club "brains and brawn."

In a club dominated by males, being female provides a different experience, according to two women in the club.

Kristen Marchant, a second-year political science student, and

COMPETE • 3



Courtesy of Bodybuilding and Fitness Club

The trophy winners of last year's Mr. and Miss USC Championships competition.

Local

Installing a new fire sprinkler system in a home or business could bring tax breaks worth about half their cost under a bill sent to the Senate on Thursday.

The legislation allows local governments to decide whether to offer tax breaks of up to 25 percent of the fire sprinkler system's cost. That money would be matched by state tax breaks. Property owners with sprinkler systems also typically get breaks on their fire insurance.

The legislation is in response to a deadly furniture store fire in Charleston last year that killed nine firefighters. Authorities have said sprinklers would have at least delayed the spread of the fire that was the greatest loss of firefighters since the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center.

"I think it's going to help," Columbia Fire Chief Bradley Anderson said.

It's unclear how many counties may offer the tax breaks or, given the economy, how many can afford it.

Robert Croom, lobbyist for the South Carolina Association of Counties, said there were no estimates of how much the typical county might offer. Some county administrators now are having a hard enough time writing budgets that allow for meager pay increase, he said.

"I don't know that they'd be able to afford it," Croom said.

An earlier version of the bill had no state tax breaks, but let counties give tax credits worth 80 percent of the installation's cost.

National

BROCKWAY, Pa. — A pre-dawn fire engulfed a western Pennsylvania home where three generations of the same family lived Thursday, killing 10 people, most of them children, while the patriarch worked an overnight shift.

Authorities identified the dead as a 40-year-old woman and nine people under 20, including two infants. Most of the younger ones were children or grandchildren of the woman, Kimberly Peterson.

Two members of the family escaped, including a young woman who jumped from the second floor and ran naked and screaming for help, officials said. The roaring flames melted the siding on a neighboring house.

Fire Chief Kris Benson said the front of the house was ablaze when he arrived at 2:50 a.m. and tried to enter through a side door, but was forced back by smoke and flames.

"This fire had a very, very good jump on us," the chief said.

Jaime Hynds, a newspaper editor who lives across the street from the home, said she was awakened at about 2:30 a.m. by a naked woman shouting for help. The woman jumped from the second floor and ran to Hynds' home, according to her newspaper, The Courier-Express of DuBois.

Peterson's husband, Douglas Peterson Jr., was at work in a nearby town when he learned about the fire. He arrived around 4 a.m. at the house on a main drag lined with several other single-family homes, officials said.

World

HARARE, Zimbabwe — Intruders ransacked offices of the main opposition party and police detained foreign journalists Thursday in an ominous sign that President Robert Mugabe might turn to intimidation and violence in trying to stave off an electoral threat to his 28-year rule.

Earlier, Mugabe apparently launched his campaign for an expected run-off presidential ballot even before the official results of Saturday's election were announced, with state media portraying the opposition as divided and controlled by former colonial ruler Britain.

Five days after the vote, the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission still had not released results on the presidential election despite increasing international pressure, including from former U.N. chief Kofi Annan, who recently mediated an end to Kenya's postelection violence.

The opposition Movement for Democratic Change already asserted its leader, Morgan Tsvangirai, won the presidency outright, but said it was prepared to compete in any run-off.

The police raids came a day after official results showed Mugabe's party had lost control of parliament's 210-member lower house. The election commission was slow on the 60 elected seats in the Senate, releasing the first returns late Thursday that gave five seats each to the opposition and ruling party.

Tsvangirai tried to reassure security chiefs who vowed a week ago not to serve anyone but Mugabe, according to a source close to the leader.

—Compiled by The Associated Press

TODAY



83 64

Saturday



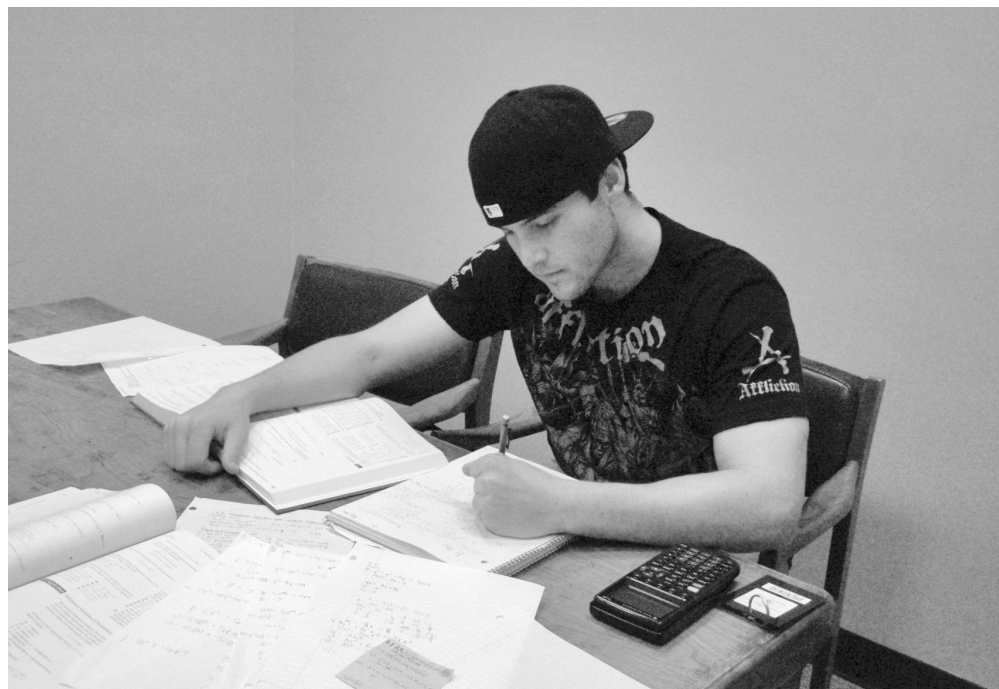
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Sunday



78 58

PIC OF THE DAY



Cristina Kubicki/THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Phillip Mason, a second-year mechanical engineering student, buckles down to study for the final test of the semester.

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Crime Report

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2

Petit larceny, 8:30 p.m.

Russell House, 1400 Greene St.
The victim said she left her wallet on a bench in a lobby of the Russell House and then found it in the second floor bathroom with items missing including an iPod.
Estimated value: \$312
Responding officer: J. DuPree

Burglary, 11 p.m.

Wardlaw, 820 Main St.
The victim said someone stole her wallet from her office.
Estimated value: \$100
Responding officers: A. Mitchell and B. Simon

Breaking and entering of a motor vehicle, petit larceny, 6:50 p.m.

800 Devine St.
The victim said someone broke through the driver's side front window of the vehicle and removed a gym bag containing clothing, an MP3 player, headphones and two locks.
Estimated value: \$240
Responding officer: M. Hollbrooks

-Compiled by Sierra Kelly

DARFUR • Continued from 1

the beginning of the year.
“This year we decided to focus on Darfur,” Niehaus said. Other issues the club has focused on in the past include global warming as well as child soldiers in Uganda.
Niehaus, a sophomore at Spring Valley, said this is the first big event the club has organized.
“We usually just do stuff inside of the school so it's our first time branching out and doing something bigger,” Niehaus said. The club currently has 25-30 regular members.
This is the walk's first

year, but Niehaus hopes the International Club will make the walk an annual event.
One hundred percent of Walk for Darfur's donations will go to the United Nations Children's Fund, or UNICEF, to benefit Darfur. Niehaus said the International Club decided to pick UNICEF because it gives all of its profits to Darfur.
The ongoing conflict in Darfur has already killed 400,000 civilians and displaced 2 million.
Darfur is located in the western part of Sudan, a country in eastern Africa. A group known

as the Janjaweed has been responsible for attacking and killing thousands of Darfurian civilians. They are also responsible for destroying food and water supplies and setting villages on fire.
It is a current social justice issue that Niehaus and her club hope to spread knowledge about.
“The people in Darfur are really struggling,” Niehaus said. “We're just trying to do everything we can to raise awareness.”
Niehaus said she wasn't entirely sure about what the donations would go toward in Darfur, but is under the impression that it will help

children.
“We hope it will be directed more toward children,” Niehaus said.
The Walk for Darfur will start at Clemson Extension (Sandhills Research Center) at 900 Clemson St. from 10 a.m. — 1 p.m. Cost to join is \$5, but \$15 if participants want a T-shirt.
Anyone who missed the deadline to join the USC team can still participate in the walk by showing up on Saturday before 10 a.m.

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecocknews@sc.edu

COMPETE • Continued from 1

Justina Kelly, a second-year accounting student, are both officers in the Bodybuilding and Fitness Club. Kelly is vice president of events and Marchant is secretary. Both expressed thoughts that the term “bodybuilding” scares a lot of females away.
“I wish we did have more females that were interested in it,” Marchant said. “I think a lot of females are intimidated by the fact that we don't have that many females in the club. I was intimidated at first. I think that by the title of the club, they think big, buff guys. The title is Bodybuilding and Fitness; we do more than just talk about lifting weights and how to gain muscle.”
The Bodybuilding and Fitness Club encompasses health and nutritional information, cardiovascular activities and an elementary anatomy education. People of all fitness levels are welcome, Greenlaw said.
While the club has no rules on what can and cannot be eaten, most eat extremely healthy and avoid alcohol.
“I never eat fast food,” Kelly said. “I saw ‘Super Size Me’ and it scarred me for life.”
Kelly said the last time she ate fast food was her freshman year of high

school.
Marchant competed in the Miss USC figure competition last year, but is not competing this year due to time constraints.
“Last year I had more time, but I still didn't have enough time to do everything I could have to get in tip-top shape,” Marchant said.
The Bodybuilding and Fitness Club also holds an octathlon and a strength meet in addition to Mr. and Miss USC Championships, which is the longest running event held by the club. Admission to the competition is \$3 for USC students with their Carolina Card and \$5 for non-students. Attendance last year was approximately 300 people and Greenlaw expects the same this year.
“Don't knock it until you try it,” Brei said. “There is a social taboo around men wearing banana hammocks, but it's a very cool time. You get to see all these guys and girls and see the results of their months of hard work.”

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecocknews@sc.edu



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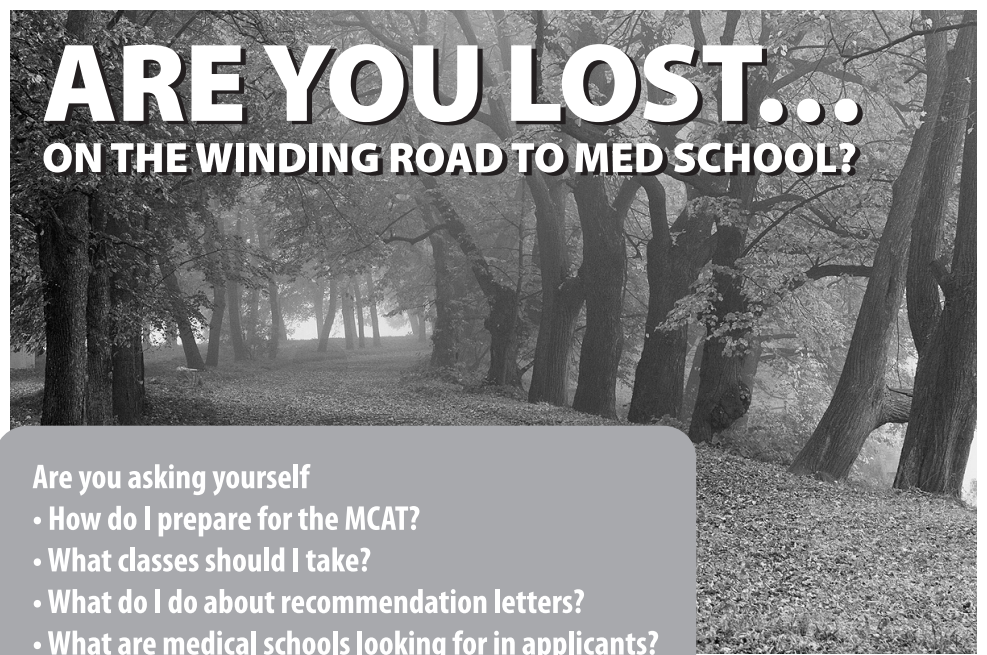
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First Place
Katie Jones, Michael Baumann, Paul Bowers, Megan Sinclair

Second Place
Brad Maxwell, Almar Flotides, Kelly Bobrow

Third Place
Elizabeth Wilson, Marlowe Leverette, Mike Conway



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IN OUR OPINION

Senate proposal may crush research dreams

A new budget proposal being discussed in the state Senate may spell the end of high-end research at USC.

If a Senate panel gets its way, \$20 million will be taken from the \$30 million in lottery money currently funding the much-touted endowed chairs program. These funds — which are reserved for USC, Clemson and MUSC — go toward attracting world-renowned research professors and toward major research projects such as the Innovista, but Senate is considering reallocating these funds to create new scholarships.

With the increase in high-end research comes an improved reputation for USC.

Complain all you want about tuition, but the prices of admission at South Carolina’s three major research universities are real bargains by national standards. And between the LIFE Scholarship and a bevy of others already in place, anyone willing to put forth the effort can pay his or her way through college in South Carolina.

When USC alumni lobbied at the State House last week, a major issue on their agenda was preserving the endowed chairs. The endowment could propel USC to the vanguard of alternative fuel and nanotech research.

The benefits of the endowed chairs far outweigh any shortsighted gains associated with new scholarships. With the increase in high-end research comes an improved reputation for USC, which means the attraction of more investors and businesses, which could mean actually mean more scholarships in the long run.

USC is beginning to make headlines and turn heads with high-ranked programs. At this juncture, few decisions could make less sense than the decision to slash our endowment by two-thirds.

CORRECTIONS

If you see an error in today’s paper, we want to know about it. E-mail us at gamecockopinions@sc.edu

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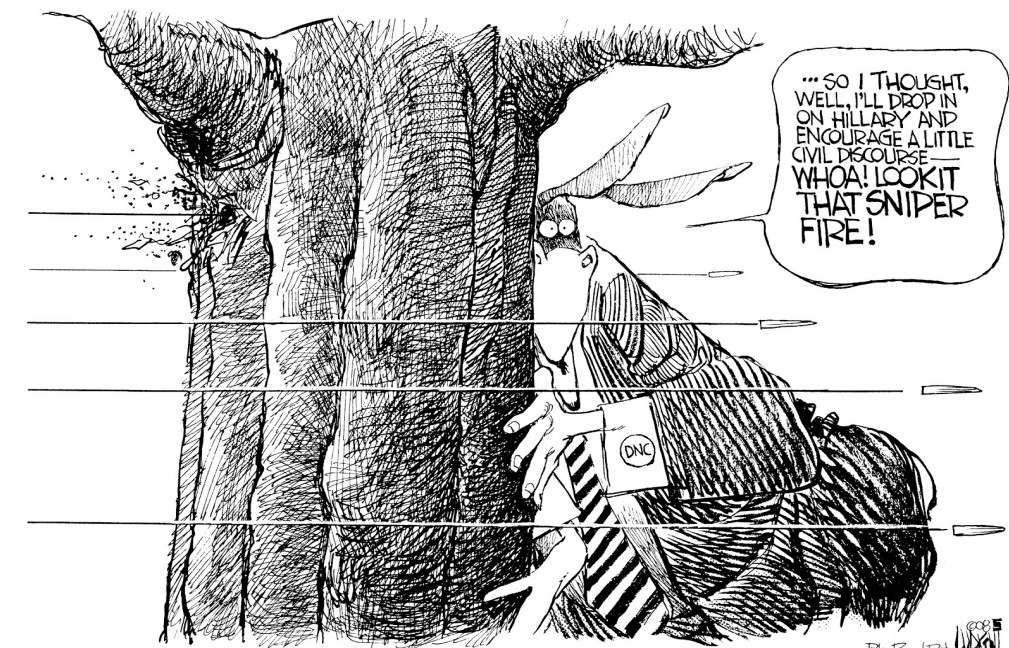
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THE LIBERAL FOUNTAIN

Sin taxes don’t solve financial trouble

States shouldn’t rely on immorality charges to fix fiscal irresponsibility

Taxes are an unfortunate part of consuming goods. You fill your car up with gas, you pay taxes. You eat out or buy groceries, you pay taxes. You buy cigarettes and porn, you pay even higher taxes. Wait, cigarettes and porn?

This week the state has been considering a 20 percent tax on porn magazines. For those of you who love to read your Playboy and Hustler, this means you’ll pay more for the articles than your girlfriend who reads Seventeen.

Don’t worry smokers, the government hasn’t forgotten about you. They want to increase the tax on that pack of Camel Turkish Silvers to \$1.

I know pornography is the root of all evil and cigarettes will give you cancer, but increasing the tax on luxuries because society frowns upon them is just ridiculous.

If someone wanted to place a 20 percent tax on Lucky Charms, there



MONIQUE CUNIN
Third-year print journalism student

would be a statewide outrage. The “magically delicious” cereal is a luxury. People don’t have to have it — just like porn and cigarettes are luxuries that people don’t

have to have.

Furthermore, many people cite concern about the health of smokers as a reason for the tax.

People should not smoke because it is bad for them — so we’re going to tax them for endangering their own health?

People don’t need cars, they are a luxury and they are bad for the Earth. Should we instate a 20 percent tax on car purchases?

Chances are that if the legislature proposed these ideas, it would be laughed at and it would not even make a story in The State.

The reason people are so quick to tax cigarettes and porn is because it does not affect the majority of people directly.

They are too health-conscious to ever give themselves lung cancer while eating pizza. They are also too moral to glance at a Playboy while reading Tucker Max online and laughing or watching television shows with women wearing next to nothing.

South Carolina lawmakers, have fun and enjoy your morality, but please, don’t increase taxes on goods and services just because you don’t approve of them.

At least Richland County residents have finally started allowing the sale of beer and wine on Sundays. Maybe soon the rest of the state, including state lawmakers, will follow this trend and have laws based on decreasing chaos in society, not increasing morality.

If you want to raise revenue in the state, try adding toll booths on major state highways. Most people use them, and you’ll even get revenue from out-of-state travelers. Better yet, why not better manage the money you have been given and cut out unnecessary spending.

THE COCKBLOCK

READER DISCUSSION FROM DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

In response to ‘SJSU blood drives suspended’ by Jenny Sinkhoe

If your offended don’t give blood, that is your right, to impose PC in such an important issue is a\$#nine. certain religions are against blood donations and transfusions, you don’t see this group making it a PC issue.

Seriously? You’re going to be offended because the FDA doesn’t want people to become infected? That seems a bit selfish on your part; giving blood isn’t mandatory its something people choose to do. If you want to give back to the community and to people in need I’m sure there are plenty other ways to do it.

The policy is offensive mainly because it’s based on dated trends. As much as we hear that blood is so deperately needed, we exclude people on this basis? So it’s fine that a sexually promicuous woman can waltz in and give all the blood she wants while a healthy man in a long term monagamous sexual relationship with another healthy man can’t? Ridiculous.

In the religion of political correctness, it’s a greater sin to possibly offend someone than to endanger someone else’s life. Welcome to the current sorry world we live in.

It seems more like a witch hunt against homosexuals using bogus logic and statistics. Jacob Davis would be proud..

This is neither liberalism or political correctness gone awry. This is a sign of the changing times and a policy that needs to be modified. It is also a continuation of the ignorance that HIV is a “gay men’s disease”. HIV and STIs are a risk to ANYONE who is sexually active and doesn’t use protection, regardless of sexual orientation. Anyone who has unprotected sex, regardless of their sexual orientation, is a risk to the blood supply. How can you protect yourself? USE PROTECTION EVERY TIME.

In response to ‘Transgender bigotry far too common’ by Kimi Timmers

Oops, The Daily Gamecock accidentally printed one of their April

Fools columns in todays paper! My new favorite word is “transphobia.”

It may not bother you what people do with their own bodies, but it should bother you that they are bringing a child into this world.

The child will call the person who used to be a woman “Dad.” I’m sure when it is old enough, they will explain the situation to the child. It doesn’t seem to me that the couple wants “sick fame,” they want a baby. Is that wrong?

People don’t respect the “transgender” thing because it’s a load of garbage. Nobody’s who they want to be in their formative years. Get over it. I feel like I should have been born into a body that could grow to an athletic 6’8” so I could play in the NBA. At heart, I’m a pro basketball player. Unfortunately, I’m not 6’8”. I’m just a slow 6 footer with an OK jump shot. And guess what? I got over it. You’re born the way you’re born, and if you feel like your body doesn’t function properly for your mind, learn to deal with it.

MLB takes enough hits minus star’s roid claims

Canseco can’t wash his hands clean by accusing others, only hurts sport

Former Major League Baseball star Jose Canseco’s constant finger-pointing of past and present ball players regarding steroid use is devoid of positive aspects.



MICHAEL WUNDERLICH
First-year print journalism student

Canseco views himself as the honest party, washing his hands clean of his own sins by accusing others of crimes that he shares with them: using performance enhancing drugs banned by the MLB.

Baseball isn’t supposed to be about Canseco constantly ripping into current stars Alex Rodriguez and Curt Schilling, which only brings a darker light to a game that for many conjures up some of the most memorable and innocent experiences of their life.

Baseball shouldn’t be about tainted storylines, tarnished heroes and corruption.

Baseball represents something more pure than any other sport, if only because of the innocence it evokes in anyone who has ever picked up a bat and remembers the smell of their first glove.

Baseball should take you back to a time of fond memories, whether that’s competing in the game that you loved yourself or going to your first Major League ball game and seeing your idols play.

While Canseco might see himself as doing the public and the league a service by uncovering stars who might be doping from his time being in the league, all he’s really doing is smearing black tar over each base on every diamond of ballpark anywhere.

It’s tragic for the kids that are now where we used to be, playing at their local recreational leagues, hustling hard to make the varsity cuts, living with their beloved teams. With the cloud people like Canseco cast over the game, it’ll never be as innocent for them.

Canseco isn’t the only guilty party to blame for the defilement of baseball’s image in recent years; there’s a plethora of names to choose from — many from a higher profile than he, such as Roger Clemens and Barry Bonds.

But while names like Clemens and Bonds dwarf the game with recent allegations into alleged steroid use, no one has been as outlandish and outspoken about the steroid issue as Canseco, who’s now published two books on the topic, naming names and chronicling his own usage with steroids.

Thanks to Canseco, I’ll never be able to appreciate baseball in the same way ever again. Every time I go to watch friends play in their games, the Gamecocks play at Sarge Frye or my Marlins play to a crowd of nobody in Miami, I’ll hear his voice choking the life out of the innocence of a sport that for such a long time and for so many people, was the purest of all.

NY ballet principal visits Columbia

USC Dance Company collaborates with influential choreographer

Ellen Meder
STAFF WRITER

For a ballet dancer, the highest aspiration one can have is to dance for the famed New York City Ballet.

At 7 p.m. at the Koger Center for the Arts, 25 USC dance students will do the next best thing: perform the works of one of the most influential ballet choreographers of all time, George Balanchine, with current and former members of his ballet company.

This is the third year the university dance department will present "Ballet Stars of New York." A collaboration between the two companies, the benefit show — along with the following gala dinner — raises funds to enhance the dance department with student scholarships.

"This year's program is hold-onto-your-seats quality," said Susan Anderson, artistic director of the dance department. "It is a diverse and rigorous program, infused with both the traditional and the inventive."

Some students, including Bonnie Boiter-Jolley, Susan Dabney, Ben Hankinson and Lindsey Shatzer, are dancing in this performance for the third consecutive year. This exposure, based on past USC Dance Company performances, is thoroughly evident in the caliber of the dancers' work.

The idea behind the collaboration is that the connection is a great recruitment device for the ever-growing dance department, which began offering bachelor's degrees in dance in the fall of 2005. With exponential growth, Anderson anticipates 70 dance majors next fall, more than doubling what was anticipated for the fourth year of the flourishing program.

In a state that is perhaps not known for extensive patronage of ballet, how is such a link forged? Columbia native Stacey Calvert, now associate artistic director and artist-in-residence of the USC Dance Company, is the instrumental connector. After growing up dancing in her mother's co-owned Columbia studio, Calvert-Brodie School of Dance, Calvert moved to New York City at 17 to attend the School of American Ballet. After a 20-year career as a soloist at New York City Ballet, Calvert chose to move home six years ago.

"I do miss New York," she said. "My wonderful friends, the excitement of performing at the State Theater at Lincoln Center. But now my passion is teaching, and I want to expose my students to the best of ballet because that's how they learn to be the best."

"These dancers work to their max and then see perfection and work even harder," said Dance faculty member Cynthia Flach.

USC Dance Company is the only company in Columbia with the rights to perform Balanchine's protected works. Calvert's membership in the Balanchine Trust allows her to set the choreography on the company.

The first piece, "Donizetti Variations," is part of the New York City Ballet's "Salute to Italy." The second piece, "Barber Violin Concerto," which portrays a balance of classical and contemporary dance through two couples, is by Peter Martins. The final variation on the program, another Balanchine called "Western Symphony," celebrates American ideals, the Old West and folk dancing.

With previous performances in Augusta and Charleston, the final Columbia performance will include an extra treat for viewers. Calvert's extensive networking and negotiation continued up until Wednesday, when it was found out that Wendy Whelan would be joining the show. Whelan is perhaps the premier dancer in the world right now.

"She is incredible. Her technique is enough to put any mortal to shame," Flach said of Whelan. With a particularly angular and finely tuned body of muscle, the 41-year old's amazing grace and agility is awe-inspiring.

Other talented New York City Ballet dancers gracing the stage will be Benjamin Millepied, Megan Fairchild, Albert Evans, Charles Askegard, Abi Stafford and Teresa Reichlen.

The dancers will be accompanied by the School of Music's Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Professor Donald Portnoy.

Tickets are \$25 for students, \$30 for adults and \$35 for orchestra seating. To reserve a ticket, call 803-777-5112. Or, to charge, call 803-251-2222.

For the formal gala, tickets are \$300 each



Photos courtesy of Paul Kolnik / The New York City Ballet

New York City Ballet dancers Wendy Whelan and Albert Evans dance to "Barber's Violin Concerto," one of the pieces that will be performed at "Ballet Stars of New York."

and will include a pre-show reception, a post-show cocktail hour, a formal dinner and interaction with the dancers. For more information on the gala, contact the dance office at 803-777-7264.

Early arrival for the performance is recommended.

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecockfeatures@sc.edu

Ivy-leaguer grads hit blog, music scene

Vampire Weekend's new record spreads from internet, combines African sounds with indie-rock

Chris Riemenschneider
MCT Campus

This time last year, the fellas in Vampire Weekend had already started to feel the buzz. They were being touted by influential music Web sites and courted by record companies. Success was just one Louis Vuitton or Benetton lyrical reference away.

Only one thing stood in their way: Bassist Chris Baio still had to graduate from Columbia University, where the band had formed only a year earlier.

"We were meeting with labels while I was still a senior and still writing papers and all that," Baio recalled, calling from a tour van last week as the band traveled from San Francisco to Portland, Ore. "On some level, it was harder to concentrate, but I liked the things I was studying in college, so it wasn't too hard."

Such has been the whirlwind for Vampire Weekend: Last March they were Ivy League college boys with a little band on the side; this March they appeared on "Saturday Night Live" and the cover of Spin magazine as "the best new band of the year — already?!"

The New York-based, Afropop-inspired indie-rockers are still on the upside of a wave of hype that started with music bloggers and Brooklyn hipsters.

Vampire Weekend's rapid ascent is a true sign of the times. Music's online revolution makes it possible to generate a buzz, even before there's a record out. VW's self-titled CD just came out a

month ago on XL Recordings.

"We managed to make a lot of headway without a label," Baio marveled. "We did everything ourselves for a very long time. We didn't even have a manager until, like, December of last year."

Predictably, the Vampire boys are trying to brush off any negative reaction to their fast rise.

"There gets to be this sort of meta-analysis where, as soon as a band gets popular, the idea of a backlash is the first thing that comes up," Baio said. "In a way, you can even consider it a privilege to have people out there hating on you. It means your music's getting out there."



Courtesy of Vampire Weekend

The members of Afro-indie act Vampire Weekend are fresh out of college and learning to cope with making music in the real world.

The music in this case actually is getting out beyond the blogosphere. Radio stations are spinning the infectiously bouncy single "A-Punk" as well as "Cape Cod Kwassa Kwassa," the song with the fashion-designer references and a line about copulating to Peter Gabriel. The album, meanwhile, has already sold more than 100,000 copies since its release (impressive nowadays), and it's consistently among the hot sellers on iTunes.

Both "A-Punk" and "Cape Cod Kwassa Kwassa" demonstrate the band's unique mix of typical dorm-room, book-wormy rock — the Smiths are an obvious influence — with something atypical: African music. The band half-jokingly describes its sound as "Upper West Side Soweto," referencing both their Manhattan roots and a South African musical hotbed.

Baio credited singer-guitarist Ezra Koenig and keyboardist Rostam Batmanglij (both music majors at Columbia) for bringing the African sounds into the band — particularly soukous music, one of the styles made famous in the West via Paul Simon's "Graceland" album.

"When we formed the band, Ezra was listening to a compilation of Madagascar guitar pop music called 'Madagascar Guitar Vol. 2,'" he said. "At the same time, Rostam was listening to [South African singer] Brenda Fassie a lot. As far as our sound goes, it started with Ezra's guitar playing, and particularly the inspiration came from the guitar tone. We would feed off that."

Of course, referencing African music while wearing V-neck sweaters and singing about dorm-room parties and vacationing on Cape Cod has spawned its own bit of skepticism over the group. Baio laughed off that criticism, too.

"I'll be honest: Three-quarters of the band has never actually been to Cape Cod, just Ezra," he said. "We are who we are. If you look at a lot of rock bands that people enjoy, plenty of them are people with college degrees. I don't think there's any correlation between what kind of education you got and whether or not you're a good musician."



H. Lorren Au Jr. / MCT Campus

Aaron Kraten produces artwork that adorns digital devices as Gelaskins iPod and laptop protector skins.

Artist adds personality, fashion to tech gadgets

California native one of many to enter growing digital accessory market

Sonya Smith
MCT Campus

SANTA ANA, Calif. — Tinsel, acrylic paint, magnesium printing plates, spray paint, matches and wood. These are just some of the materials used in the art of Aaron Kraten.

But Kraten's art isn't just in galleries. His pieces are also found on iPods, Motorola Razrs and the backs of Dell laptops.

Toronto, Canada-based Gelaskins puts Kraten's art on those gadgets, along with the art of 55 other people. The company sells the so-called skins online and at various retail outlets around the country. The sticker-like art pieces are made to protect mobile phones, music players and laptops.

This business of personalizing people's

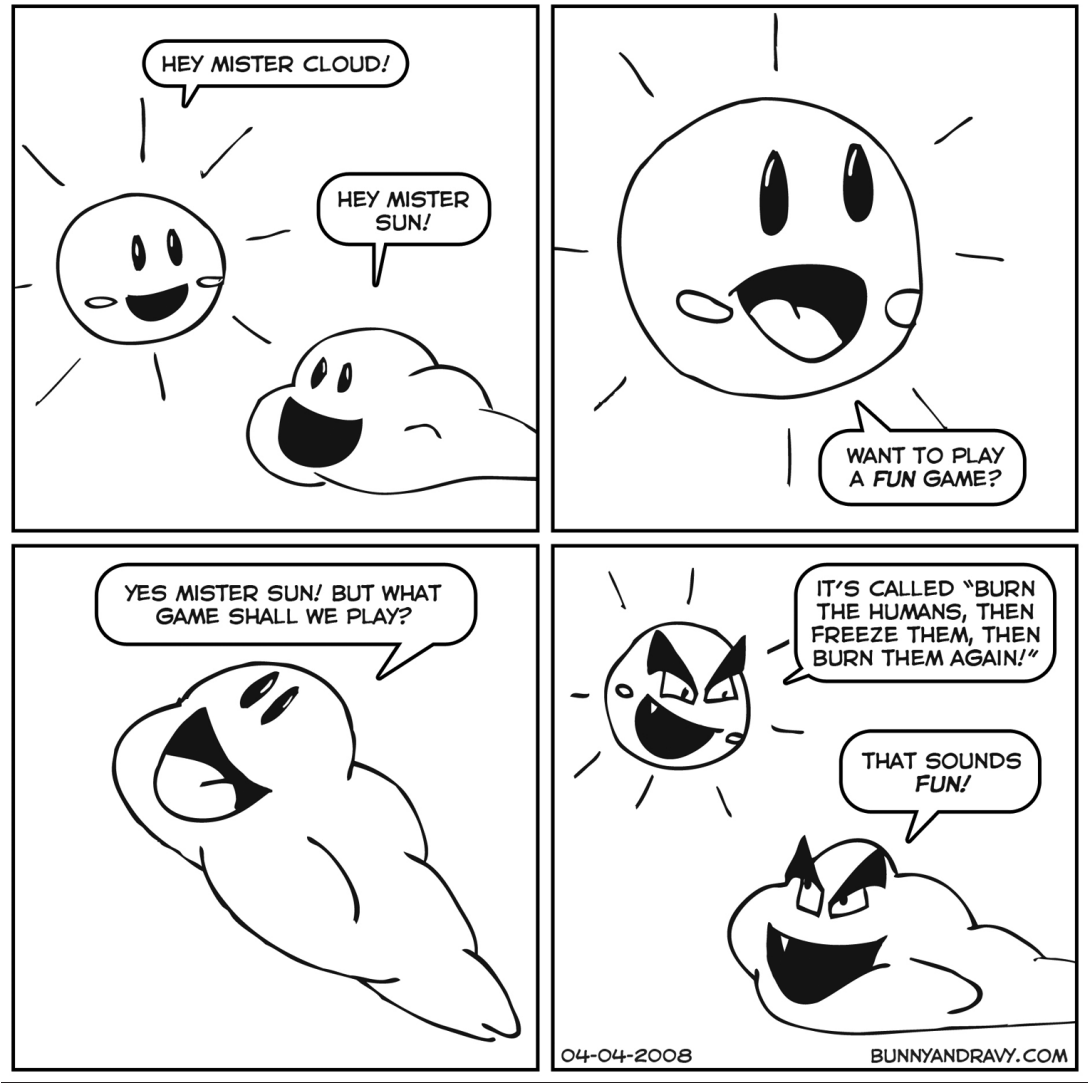
gadgets is a growing market, according to ABI Research. A report it released last year predicts that the mobile phone accessory market will grow steadily in the next five years and will generate more than \$80 billion in revenue in 2012 — 150 percent more than the estimated \$32 billion in 2007. The mobile accessory market includes cases, Bluetooth headsets, GPS receivers and speakers.

The number of mobile phone accessory products is expanding, with new products driven by technology as well as by customer fashion and personalization needs," said Shailendra Pandey, ABI Research industry analyst.

Brian Dunn, vice president of Gelaskins, said the company was created in 2005 to meet customers' demand for fashionable electronics.

"They were bored with all of the other protection out there," Dunn said. "They were too thick, non-stylish and all looked the same."

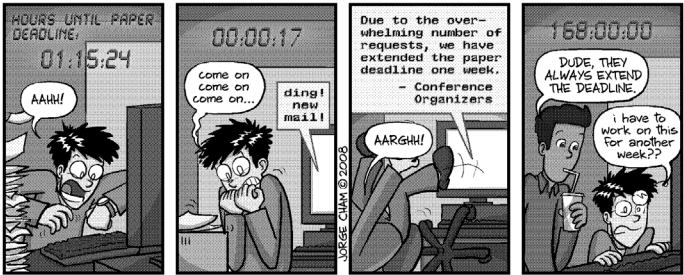
Inside the Box ♦ By Marlowe Leverette / The Daily Gamecock



The Whiteboard ♦ By Bobby Sutton / The Daily Gamecock



PhD ♦ By Jorge Chan



HOROSCOPES

Aries A beneficial development occurs, much to your surprise. You planned for it and hoped it would happen, but it's startling when it does. **Taurus** When complicated matters are being discussed, tempers can flare. Keep your altruistic objective in mind to avoid impatience and harsh words. **Gemini** An older person, possibly a parent, is in a generous mood. Be especially cute and polite and you could gain a nice bonus. **Cancer** Don't wait for people to figure out what you want. The ones who actually can already have and the others never will. Be more directive.

Leo Gather your resources and also pack a couple of things. This weekend's good for travel, with a few minor exceptions. Just watch where you're going. **Virgo** As you're establishing your priorities, also make lists of the problems that stand in your way. Under each item, make a few notes about possible routes around them. **Libra** Your creative juices should be flowing. Give yourself time to get into the project before sharing it with anyone. You'll be sensitive about it, initially. **Scorpio** A lucky break in your love life helps you forget other irritations. You're so dearly blessed, nothing else matters. **Sagittarius** Don't let a

special moment go by unnoticed. A very gentle person will appreciate your attention and acknowledgement. **Capricorn** A special bond exists between siblings. This works for cousins, too. One of them can provide exactly what you need. All you have to do is ask. **Aquarius** Count your earnings. It looks like you've got a little more than you expected. Maybe it's a rebate or a coupon you can redeem. Those count, too. **Pisces** Go ahead and flirt. You can maintain control. Even with an assertive type, you can stay in charge. You'll do it with a smile.

Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams 4/4/08

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ACROSS

- 1 Bather's sponge
- 6 Flaming Gorge location
- 10 Second word of "The Raven"
- 14 Invisible emanations
- 15 Latvia's capital
- 16 Longest river
- 17 Celebrity promoter
- 19 Means justification?
- 20 Formal attire
- 21 Unvoiced
- 22 TV spots
- 25 Flushed
- 26 Broadway hits
- 28 Son-of movie, e.g.
- 30 Multi-speaker system
- 31 Astounds
- 32 Roasting sticks
- 33 Team follower
- 36 Stomping ground
- 37 Segment
- 38 Capri or Man
- 39 Billy Williams
- 40 Big shots' assistants
- 41 Bluish gray
- 42 Microwaved
- 44 Chopped down
- 45 Never becoming old
- 47 Oriole Ripken
- 48 Make an effort
- 49 ___ lazuli
- 50 Horse feet
- 53 Competent
- 54 Mini motor vehicle
- 58 Family group
- 59 Boo-boo
- 60 Contaminate
- 61 Piano parts
- 62 D-Day craft
- 63 Mississippi or Ohio

DOWN

- 1 Drink like a cat
- 2 Couple's possessive
- 3 Raw mineral
- 4 Speedy
- 5 Guarantees
- 6 Implored
- 7 Deadlocked
- 8 Theological doubters
- 9 Beanie or beret
- 10 Constrained state
- 11 Cook's addition
- 12 Classic single
- 13 Cozy abodes
- 18 Skater's jump
- 21 Old salts
- 22 Syrian leader
- 23 Raison ___
- 24 High-risk diamond maneuver
- 27 Measure out
- 29 Actress Merkel
- 30 Keanu Reeves thriller

Solutions from 4/3/08

C	L	E	F	F	A	W	N	N	O	L	D	E
H	A	R	I	E	U	R	O	O	R	I	E	L
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L	A	P	S	E		A	L	A	I		E	I
O	N	S	E	T		S	I	L	O		S	P

32 Circus adjuncts	46 "The Misfits" star
34 Change	47 Manages, somehow
35 Destitute	51 Leave out
37 Knight's backup singers	52 ER imperative
38 Under the weather	54 Mountain pass
40 Mimics	55 Natl. interest
41 Chooses	watchdog
43 Sigourney Weaver movie	56 Picnic pest
44 Long lumpy bean	57 Itinerary abbr.
45 Alas and ___	

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Sudoku

By The Mephram Group

4/4/08

2				4				5
				5				7
	5				1			3
		7	8	1		6		
		9		5		2		
		1		3	2	7		
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	6				5			
8				6				7

Level 1 2 3 4

How to Play

Complete the grid so each row, column AND 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9.

Solution for 4/3/08

8	4	1	9	6	2	7	5	3
6	3	9	1	7	5	4	8	2
2	5	7	4	3	8	9	6	1
7	2	5	6	9	1	3	4	8
1	6	3	8	5	4	2	7	9
4	9	8	3	2	7	5	1	6
5	7	6	2	1	3	8	9	4
3	1	4	7	8	9	6	2	5
9	8	2	5	4	6	1	3	7

Carolina resumes border war

Gamecocks travel to Athens for three game series with Georgia

Drew Lattier
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

The Carolina baseball team travels to Athens this weekend to take on SEC East foe Georgia. The three-game weekend series will begin Friday night as Carolina's fourth SEC series of the season.

The Gamecocks will look to have a successful road trip after playing nine of their last 10 games at home.

After suffering a tough 15-3 loss last weekend against Kentucky, starting pitcher Mike Cisco will open up the series at Georgia ready for a win. The loss against Kentucky was Cisco's first of the season. He won each of his earlier outings for a 4-1 record on the year.

Carolina has won four straight games, with strong hitting a major factor in all of those wins. After having a dry spell early in the season, USC's Phil Disher has started to heat up at the plate, hitting .417 in the Kentucky series. The red shirt senior continued

to hit well in the mid-week games, going four for five with a home run Wednesday night against Davidson.

"It's always nice to come back and get a few hits after you've been struggling for a while," Disher said.

Third baseman James Darnell has also been key in the lineup for the Gamecocks, earning National Player of the Week after last weekend's performance. The junior from California hit three home runs in one game, tying a USC record. Darnell is now leading the team in home runs with nine on the year.

The Bulldogs will be no easy task for Carolina. UGA is coming off a two-game sweep of a talented Clemson ball club. Georgia (17-10) defeated Clemson 6-4 and 11-3 in its mid-week series earlier this week.

"Our next six games in the league are on the road, so we're going to be tested," USC coach Ray Tanner said. "We've got to have some players step up for us and hopefully that will happen."

Georgia first baseman Rich Poythress had standout performances at the plate in the series against Clemson, hitting a home run in each of the games.



Ben Fine / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

USC first baseman Justin Smoak will lead the Gamecocks against SEC rival Georgia.

Carolina starting pitcher Will Atwood will try to pick up his fourth win of the season on Saturday. Atwood is a perfect 3-0 on the season, with all three wins coming in SEC contests. The USC bullpen will be a factor this weekend as well, with relievers, including Brandon Todd and Craig Thomas, ready to come in and pitch later in the game. Gamecock pitcher Blake

Cooper (3-2) will close out the series pitching on Sunday.

The Gamecocks won both mid-week contests this week, defeating the Citadel on Tuesday, followed by a 9-2 win over Davidson on Wednesday. The momentum of strong play during the week should boost the team entering a tough weekend series.

"Winning both games

is big. We had a great win against the Citadel and against Davidson," first baseman Justin Smoak said. "Georgia is playing well right now, so we're going to have to go there and play hard."

The Gamecocks open the weekend games Friday night at 6:30 p.m. in Athens.

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecocksportspage@sc.edu

Final Four games pin elite against other elites

With all No. 1 seeds in, run to title could create instant classics on court

After weeks of games and millions of busted brackets worldwide, the field of 65 has been dwindled to the Final Four. For the first time in the history of the NCAA Tournament, the Final Four comprises the four No. 1 seeds in the tournament.

These games, pitting the top teams in the country against each other with a national title on the line, should produce some of the best basketball of the season.

This Final Four has something for everyone. While these games will be hard to predict because all the teams are so evenly matched, this is how I see this weekend turning out.

UCLA vs. Memphis, 6:07 p.m. Saturday

For the third year straight, UCLA will be part of the Final Four. After two straight losses to the eventual national champion Florida Gators, the Bruins hope to win a championship with the help of All-American Kevin Love.

Love has provided the Bruins with an inside presence they lacked in their previous two trips to the Final Four. The Bruins will look to get Love involved early against an athletic but undersized Memphis team.

UCLA has won many close games this season, something that Memphis has not had to worry about. This will give them a great advantage if the game is as close as the experts think it will be.

Memphis finally got the monkey off their back by advancing to the Final Four on their third trip to the Elite Eight. Memphis has one of most athletic and versatile teams in the tournament and looks to run their opponent out of the gym.

If Memphis plays anywhere near to the way they played in the Houston Regional, then no team in the country has a prayer against them. However, I will have to go with the leadership and experience of UCLA to pull out a close win again.

Kansas vs. North Carolina, 8:47 Saturday

This game will feature two of the most balanced teams in the country. While Kansas has struggled in spots during the tournament, the Tar Heels have blown past everyone in their sights. The Tar Heels pack a powerful inside-outside punch with point guard Ty Lawson and All-American Tyler Hansbrough.

Kansas is arguably the most senior team in the Final Four. This maturity will be needed to ignore the storylines of playing their former coach, as well as rumors that their current coach may pursue other jobs.

The key for Kansas will be to match the speed and versatility of the Tar Heels as well as control Hansbrough down low and force him into early foul trouble. Ultimately, I see the Tar Heels being too much for the Jayhawks to handle as they advance to play UCLA in the National Championship game.



AUSTIN COLLINS
Second-year finance student



Ben Fine / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Softball hits stride

After slow start, Carolina aims to stay on hot streak with weekend series

Keith Locklear
STAFF WRITER

The softball team will play host to a three-game series against the Auburn Tigers this weekend at Beckham Field. Carolina has an overall record of 17-15 and conference record of 5-7, good enough for fourth place in the Eastern division of the SEC.

The Gamecocks enter the weekend on a four-game winning streak, their second longest of the season, after losing six straight games prior to their recent winning streak. One of the keys to the turn-around has been an improvement in offense from the Carolina batters.

During their six-game losing streak, the Gamecocks were averaging a dismal 0.17 runs per game off only 2.8 hits per game. During the four-game winning streak, Carolina has improved to 5.75 runs per game off 9.25 hits per game, a significant improvement.

One of the players that has

helped to spark the offense not only recently but also all season long is leadoff hitter Ashton Payne. The junior currently ranks 13th in the SEC with a batting average of .378 on the season. The player that has been sending Payne across the plate most of the season is freshman Jill Semento. The infielder has provided power for Carolina this season, leading the team in RBIs (13), home runs (3), slugging percentage (.539) and on-base percentage (.433).

Despite the performances of Payne and Semento, the Carolina team offense has struggled, especially in comparison to the other teams in the SEC. The Gamecocks currently rank last in the SEC in almost every offensive statistical category, including hits, RBIs, runs scored and batting average.

In order to make up for those offensive struggles, Carolina has needed some excellent support from its pitching staff. The pitchers have responded, as the Gamecocks currently have the fourth-lowest team ERA in the SEC at 1.73.

The staff has been anchored this season by senior Melissa Hendon, who

has a record of 7-8 and is ninth in the SEC with an ERA of 1.40. Hendon has also pitched 13 complete games, including four shutouts, and has come out of the bullpen for five saves.

Auburn comes to Columbia with an overall record of 31-9 and an SEC record of 9-5, good for third in the SEC Western division.

Similarly, the Tigers have struggled on offense this season with a team batting average .249 but have excelled in pitching with a team ERA of 1.62.

Auburn has two of the top five pitchers in the conference with regards to ERA in senior Brittany Day and freshman Lauren Schmalz. Day has a 10-2 record with a 1.26 ERA and is only allowing batters to hit .184 off her this season. Schmalz has a 5-1 record with a 1.12 ERA and has also collected five saves this year.

South Carolina and Auburn will play a doubleheader on Saturday, with the first game starting at 1 p.m. and the second at approximately 3 p.m. The third game of the series will be played Sunday at 2 p.m.

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecocksportspage@sc.edu

Men's tennis goes for upset

Team looks to take down a pair of SEC top-tier teams in Alabama, Auburn

Austin Collins
STAFF WRITER

After earning its first SEC win of the year last Sunday at No. 41 Arkansas, the Carolina men's tennis team will attempt to notch a few more conference victories this weekend when it hosts No. 24 Alabama (14-8, 4-4 SEC) and No. 26 Auburn (9-9, 3-5 SEC) at the Sam Daniel Tennis Facility.

The No. 57 Gamecocks (9-9, 1-7 SEC) are in last place in the SEC but have a chance to make a push for the NCAA Tournament with wins over two highly ranked conference teams.

"It will be interesting this weekend," said coach Kent DeMars, who is in his 24th year at South Carolina. "They are both top-caliber teams, but I think we have a shot at winning them both. If we have any thoughts of making the NCAAs at all, we need to win at least one of them."

The player most consistent for the Gamecocks this season has been Pedro Campos, who holds a 19-10 overall record and is 4-4 in the SEC at No. 3 singles. The sophomore from Brazil has been a pleasant surprise this year for DeMars.

"Campos is probably our most improved player," DeMars said. "He's really jumped up a level. I've considered moving him up in the lineup, but he's done so well where he's at, so I'd hate to spoil anything."

Two other players that have improved their play

recently at the top of the lineup are Yevgeny Supeko and Diego Cubas.

Supeko, a senior from Daytona Beach, Fla., plays No. 1 singles for USC and is coming off a 7-6(2), 7-6(5) victory over Blake Stode of Arkansas, the No. 90 ranked player in the country.

The previous weekend against Mississippi, Supeko was leading the nation's No. 16 player, Matthias Wellermann, 6-4, 4-1, but the match was not finished. Cubas, another sophomore from Brazil, has won his last two matches at No. 2 singles and holds a 3-2 mark there in conference play.

DeMars said that he noticed the team's improved play when the squad started

spending all of its training time practicing on the court, rather than conditioning or lifting weights. He feels that the team is now in a position to pick up a few more SEC wins, which would put it in contention for

a bid to the tournament.

"We've got [both matches] on our home court, and that's an advantage," DeMars said. "They should be two very close matches. Even though they are ranked a lot higher than us, I think we have closed the gap on them."

Today's match against Alabama is set for 2 p.m., and Sunday's match with Auburn will start at 1 p.m.

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecocksportspage@sc.edu

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mmacklen@palmettoathleticcenter.com

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